

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 7, 2017

Agenda Item: 2018-2019 Hunting District Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. FWP is proposing several hunting district boundary changes to facilitate management or increase opportunity. Changes include:

Deer/Elk/Lion/Bear:

HD 130- Create Swan River Refuge Weapons Restriction Area for archery-equipment-only hunting of deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion and wolf.

HDs 204/240/260/270/ 281/309/312/590/702 – Minor changes

Antelope HDs 311/313/511 and Moose HD 441 – Minor changes

Bison HD 395 - West Yellowstone Area – Create new and expanded boundaries for northern and southern portions and rename them Gallatin Watershed and Madison Watershed Portions.

All changes are further described in the Boundary Change Master List in the commission packet. All other regulations and descriptions of boundary changes will remain unchanged.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Comments were received during the Aug. 20 – Sept. 21 public scoping. Few specifically addressed hunting district boundaries. In addition to public comment taken during the Dec. 7 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m. Jan. 24, 2018. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb. 2018 commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2017 (status quo).

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends adoption for public comment of the proposed boundary changes.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife commission adopt for public comment the 2018 and 2019 changes to Hunting District boundaries as presented by FWP, and that all other regulations and descriptions of boundary changes will remain unchanged.